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*Chinese Delegate*

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*On Agenda Item 85*

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Mr. Chairman,

The Chinese delegation would like to thank Mr. Omar Hilale, Chairman of the Special Committee, for his introduction of the 2018 session.

The Special Committee is the only permanent forum within the framework of the UN to discuss issues related to the Charter and the strengthening of the role of the UN. China has always attached importance to the active role of the Special Committee, and supported the Special Committee's work mandated by the General Assembly. We commend the important contributions made by the Special Committee in its over 40 years of history to safeguarding the purposes and principles of the Charter and strengthening the role of the UN.

In its 2018 session, the Special Committee began an item-by-item deliberation on the peaceful settlement of disputes contained in Article 33 of the UN Charter. This session focused on the means of negotiation and enquiry. China has actively participated in the discussions as it believes that the discussions are of great significance. Peaceful settlement of disputes is a fundamental principle of international law and an obligation that all countries must abide by under international law. The choice and application of a dispute settlement method should be in line with the principle of "State consent" and fully respect the right of countries to choose freely the means for the peaceful settlement of disputes. No means should be imposed on a country. Among the means for peaceful settlement of disputes, negotiation can best reflect the parties' free will and the principle of sovereign equality. It is the most suitable for the parties to manage the dispute settlement process. Outcome of the negotiation is also the most likely for the parties to accept and implement. Negotiation is the most used means in dispute settlement practice and the most important one.

As an advocate and practitioner of peaceful settlement of disputes, China has always maintained that parties properly resolve international disputes



